

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A container having a container opening and a reusable cap for sealing the container opening, the container comprising:

5 a cap retainer for storing the cap in a storage configuration when the cap is not being used to seal the opening, the cap retainer comprising a slot defined by a pair of sidewalls and having at least one open end, wherein each of the sidewalls comprises a contact surface which engages the cap for securing the cap in its storage configuration within the slot.

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2. A container according to claim 1 wherein the cap is slidable in a direction of a longitudinal dimension of the slot from the at least one open end of the slot to its storage configuration.

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3. A container according to any one of claims 1-2 wherein the contact surfaces engage an exterior surface of a side portion of the cap.

4. A container according to claim 3 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the contact surfaces and the exterior surface of the side portion of the cap.

- 20 5. A container according to any one of claims 2-4 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of at least one of: the cap and the sidewalls.

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6. A container according to any one of claims 1-5 wherein each of the sidewalls comprises at least one sidewall point where the sidewall extends transversely into the slot and wherein a transverse dimension of the slot is narrower in a region of the at least one sidewall point when compared to a transverse dimension of the slot in a region of the contact surfaces.

- 30 7. A container according to claim 6 wherein, for each sidewall, the at least one sidewall point is located between the at least one open end of the slot and the contact surface of the sidewall.

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8. A container according to any one of claims 6-7 wherein the at least one sidewall point for a first of the sidewalls and the at least one sidewall point

for a second of the sidewalls are located directly, transversely across the slot from one another.

9. A container according to any one of claims 6-8 wherein the sidewalls each comprise a pair of sidewall points and the contact surface of each sidewall is located between its pair of sidewall points.
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10. A container according to any one of claims 6-9 wherein each sidewall comprises a plurality of sidewall points and a plurality of contact surfaces and each contact surface is located between a pair of the sidewall points.
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11. A container according to claim 1 wherein the slot is relatively wide in a region of the contact surfaces of the sidewalls and relatively narrow in a second region between the contact surfaces and the at least one open end of
15 the slot.
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12. A container according to claim 11 wherein the cap is slidable in a direction of a longitudinal dimension of the slot from the at least one open end of the slot past the second region to the region of the contact surfaces.
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13. A container according to any one of claims 1-12 wherein the contact surfaces are curved to correspond to a shape of the side portion of the cap.
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14. A container according to any one of claims 1-12 wherein the cap retainer comprises a wall which extends transversely between the sidewalls at one end of the slot.
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15. A container according to claim 14 wherein the transversely extending wall comprises an additional contact surface which engages the cap for securing the cap in its storage configuration.
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16. A container according to claim 15 wherein the contact surfaces of the sidewalls and the contact surface of the transversely extending wall are curved to correspond to a shape of the side portion of the cap.
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17. A container according to any one of claims 1-16 wherein the sidewalls comprise an outwardly opening tapering angle in a range of 0-5°.

18. A container according to any one of claims 1-17 wherein the cap comprises a lip which projects radially outwardly from its side portion and wherein each of the sidewalls comprises a corresponding groove for receiving the lip when the cap is in its storage configuration.
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19. A container according to any one of claims 1-18 wherein the sidewalls extend inwardly from a container wall and a base of the slot is depressed relative to the container wall.
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20. A container according to any one of claims 1-18 wherein the sidewalls extend outwardly from a container wall and a base of the slot is level with the container wall.
- 15 21. A container according to any one of claims 1-18 wherein the sidewalls extend inwardly from a container base and a base of the slot is depressed relative to the container base.
22. A container according to any one of claims 1-18 wherein the sidewalls extend outwardly from a container base and a base of the slot is level with the container base.
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23. A container according to any one of claims 1-3 and 5-22 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the contact surfaces and one or more corresponding surfaces of the cap.
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24. A container according to any one of claims 3-22 wherein at least one of the contact surfaces of the sidewalls and the exterior surface of the side portion of the cap is coated with a layer of an elastomeric material.
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25. A container according to claim 24 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the layer of elastomeric material and one of the contact surfaces and the exterior surface of the side portion of the cap.
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26. A container according to any one of claims 22-25 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of the elastomeric material.
- 5 27. A container having a container opening and a reusable cap for sealing the container opening, the container comprising:
a cap retainer for storing the cap in a storage configuration when the cap is not being used to seal the opening, the cap retainer comprising a circularly symmetric depressed region for receiving the cap, the depressed region located between a plurality of lobes which are angularly spaced apart around a circumference thereof,
wherein each of the lobes comprises a contact surface which engages the cap for securing the cap in its storage configuration and wherein the container comprises channels between each of the lobes for permitting finger access to remove the cap from its storage configuration.
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28. A container according to claim 27 wherein each of the contact surfaces comprises an outwardly opening tapering angle.
- 20 29. A container according to claim 28 wherein the tapering angle is in a range of 0-5°.
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30. A container according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein the depressed region is located in a base of the container.
31. A container according to any one of claims 27-29 wherein the depressed region is located in a container wall.
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32. A container according any one of claims 27-31 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the contact surfaces and an exterior surface of a side portion of the cap.
33. A container according to any one of claims 27-32 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of at least one of: the cap and the lobes.

34. A container according to any one of claims 27-33 wherein at least one of the contact surfaces of the lobes and the exterior surface of the side portion of the cap is coated with a layer of an elastomeric material.
- 5 35. A container according to any one of claims 32-34 wherein the contact surfaces are curved to correspond to a shape of the side portion of the cap.
- 10 36. A container having a container opening and a reusable cap for sealing the container opening, the container comprising a cap retainer for storing the cap in a storage configuration when the cap is not being used to seal the opening, the cap retainer comprising a circularly symmetrical depressed region for receiving the cap;
wherein a side portion of the cap comprises one or more radially extending projections, each projection spanning an arcuate segment of a circumference of the side portion of the cap; and
wherein each of the radially extending projections engages a corresponding contact surface of the circularly symmetric depressed region for securing the cap in its storage configuration.
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- 20 37. A container according to claim 36 wherein each of the radially extending projections are integrally formed with the cap.
- 25 38. A container according to claim 36 wherein each of the radially extending projections is fabricated from an elastomeric material that is different from the material from which the cap is formed.
- 30 39. A container according to any one of claims 36-38 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the contact surfaces and the radially extending projections.
- 35 40. A container according to any one of claims 36-39 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of at least one of: the side portion of the cap, the radially extending projections of the cap and the contact surfaces.

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41. A container comprising an opening, a reusable cap engageable with the opening and a cap retainer, the cap retainer comprising a pair of opposed sidewalls defining a slot having at least one open end, the slot comprising a cap receiving area and a narrowed throat located between the cap receiving area and the at least one open end, the narrowed throat having a transverse dimension smaller than a transverse dimension of the cap and smaller than a transverse dimension of the cap receiving area, wherein each of the sidewalls comprises a contact surface which engages the cap when the cap is located in the cap receiving area for securing the cap therein.

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